



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERGEANT INJURED BY IMPAIRED DRIVER.

At approximately 12:15 a.m. on June 27, 2007 Department of Public Safety Sgt. Annette Reyes-Miller was in her marked patrol vehicle with its emergency lights flashing and was providing traffic safety at an ADOT construction site in the eastbound lanes of State Route 202 between Santan and Gilbert Road.

A Chevrolet Blazer driven by 22-year-old Jenna R. Meyers of Gilbert drove directly into Sgt. Reyes-Miller's vehicle which was parked directly behind the construction crew. Sgt. Reyes-Miller was treated at a nearby hospital for facial bruises and chest pain.

Impairment is believed to be a factor in this collision. In addition, Meyers told officers on scene that at the time of impact she had been text messaging. Charges are pending.

This incident reminds us of the dangers of impaired drivers on the road. It also points out the continual problem of distracted driving.

In addition, Arizona law states that motorists approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle displaying flashing red and blue lights should yield the right of way by making a lane change not adjacent to that of the emergency vehicle. This is known as Yield to Emergency vehicles or Move Over Law.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.